

Hepatitis C Global Foundation

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May 19, 2004

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #2004N-0115

On behalf of Hepatitis C Global Foundation, I would like to express deep concern over recent attempts to allow illegal Canadian drug importation in this country. We are deeply concerned with any measure that introduces importation because as we've seen in the past, this is an ineffective and risky 'solution' to reducing drug costs.

By introducing importation, you are allowing Americans to be subjected to potentially counterfeit medications – Canadian regulators will not guarantee the safety or effectiveness of the drugs imported to the United States. For the millions of Americans who suffer from hepatitis C and who are taking at least one or more prescription medications, this is not acceptable.

American pharmaceutical companies stand at the brink of a biological revolution. This is not the time to allow unregulated competition. We must not forget that we need better drugs even more than we need cheaper drugs.

Please do not place the health of Americans in jeopardy by allowing them to be subjected to potentially dangerous therapies.

Sincerely,



Joey Tranchina, Executive Director

2004N-0115

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